



Problem Solving Courts Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2008

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Conference Call

I. Welcome

Judge Surbeck called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. Members present included Judge Barbara Collins, Chris Cunningham, Judge Cecile Blau, Sheila Hudson, Judge Barbara Brugnaux, Senior Judge/Judge-elect Jerry Jacobi and Don Travis. IJC staff present included Jamie Bergacs, Diane Mains and Mary Kay Hudson.

II. Review minutes of last meeting –August 15, 2008

Members reviewed and approved the minutes of the meeting held August 15, 2008.

III. Education subcommittee

- 2008 PSC Workshop review and summary
Jamie Bergacs reviewed a written summary of the workshop evaluations (summary provided to members via email). Ms. Bergacs noted that only 11 people completed the overall workshop evaluation. Judge Blau requested that IJC email a copy of the overall evaluation to those in attendance requesting their feedback. IJC staff will email the evaluation to all persons registered for the workshop and will revise the evaluation summary as appropriate for the next meeting. IJC staff will also include the number of evaluations received for each breakout session in the revised summary.

Members discussed the fact that the morning and afternoon plenary sessions were lengthy and many left the Friday morning plenary session at the break. Members of the education subcommittee will discuss how to structure the plenary sessions differently in the future.

- 2009 skills training
Mary Kay Hudson reported that Stephanie Troyer and Nicki Venable of Allen County Community Corrections will conduct a 2 – day motivational interviewing training in March 2009 for up to 40 individuals. The education subcommittee will develop guidelines for court team members to register for the training.

- 2009 PSC Workshop planning
Mary Kay Hudson reported that the education subcommittee will discuss possible dates, format and topics for the 2009 workshop at its next meeting.

IV. Policy subcommittee

- Problem-solving court legislation
Judge Surbeck reported that the Sentencing Policy Study Committee reviewed and approved the proposed problem-solving court legislation. Judge Surbeck reported that the SPSC discussed the merits of amending the proposed language to include a provision authorizing the problem-solving court judge to discharge an individual from parole upon successful completion. Judge Surbeck reported that the proposed bill was not amended by the SPSC but may be amended to include this language later in the legislative process. Judge Surbeck advised members that if this bill is adopted, the current drug court and reentry court statutes will be repealed.

Diane Mains reviewed the draft language for members. Mary Kay Hudson stated the draft requires the issue of eligibility and user fee requirements to be addressed by rules adopted by the board of directors.

Members discussed potential sponsors for the bill, including a member of the SPSC or Senator Brent Steele.

- Drug court funding
Mary Kay Hudson reported that state funding for local drug courts was not included in the Supreme Court's FY 2010-2011 budget request. Ms. Hudson reported that the Supreme Court will be requesting state general funds to assume financial responsibility for approximately 800 probation officers over the biennium. Ms. Hudson reported that this could be of benefit to the drug courts that are probation-based.

Members expressed concern that drug courts were not included in the Supreme Court budget and discussed the financial concerns of courts relying on grant funds. Members discussed possible strategies to alleviate funding concerns, such as partnering with probation or community corrections; however, members acknowledged that this may not be a viable solution in some counties. Judge Surbeck agreed to contact Jane Seigel the following week to communicate the committee members' concerns regarding this issue and to report back to the committee via conference call on October 31, 2008 at 12:00 pm.

V. Reentry court rules workgroup update

- Public comment hearing
Judge Surbeck reported that the public comment hearing on the reentry court rules was held that morning. One individual attended the hearing (Travis Robinson, Drug and Crime Control Division Director, ICJI) but did not provide any comment.
- Next steps
Judge Surbeck asked that IJC staff ensure that the rules are placed on the board of directors meeting agenda for the December meeting.

VI. Drug court performance measures task force update

- Pilot project
Mary Kay Hudson reported that the task force will commence a data collection pilot project on January 12 – April 10, 2008. All certified drug courts will be invited to participate in the pilot project. Information gathered through the pilot project will be used to form recommendations to the committee regarding statewide performance measures.
- Draft MOU for pilot sites
IJC staff provided members a copy of the MOU for courts participating in the pilot project.

VII. Schedule next meeting date

The committee will meet via conference call on October 31, 2008 at 12:00 pm.

VIII. Adjourn

Judge Surbeck adjourned the meeting at 2:42 pm.